James E. Matthews, of White Mound, Grayson county, was born in Henry county, Virginia, October 18, 1829: moved to North Carolina, where he served one session as a member of the lower House, and three successive terms as Senator in the Legislature of that State; moved to Texas in 1871; is a farmer by occupation: was a member of the House in the Seventeenth Legistature, and re-elected to the Eighteenth as a Democrat over several opponents.